## The Shielding Shadow & 69 Randall Parrish

AUTHOR OF "BEYOND THE FRONTIER," "MAID OF THE FOREST," "MY LADY OF THE NORTH," ETC. HOVELIED FROM THE PHOTOGRAY SEXUL OF THE SAME BY GROUD Y SUTZ. RELEASE BY PATHE COPPERT OF P SEPARATIONS

He took her into the shack and

southingly. "You mustn't excite your-

"What are we here for?" she inquired

for your friends, and they'll be here

voice of her husband—Sebastian!

that the girl has got away, this means

police and this guy has got to be set-

Bianca ran in front of Ravengar, "Not here!" she cried, "Take him in-

They seized Ravengar by the arms, and he went with them, still apparent-

ing in front of the pair, laughing heart

ily. They both covered him with their

"Wait!" cried Bianca. "Give me

two minutes with him alone, boys. I

"Say, if this ain't the Banit?"

growled the first man angrily. "What do you say, Joe?"

Joe shrugged his shoulders, "I guess

we can stand for him two minutes longer," he answered. "He can't get

out of here except by the door, unless he flics through the window."

They went out grandling. Binner

losed the door on them and turned to

"I cannot see you die like this," she

th love you all my life. I'll be faith-

nantiy. "A splendid program, dear madam," he atowered, "but I haven't

time. In fact I've got an engagement and I'm late now,"

He disuppeared before her eyes.

apon the couch.

to hear Schastian's voice.

Binnes tottered from the room. She

vent into her boudelr and sank down

The telephone rang. Bianca sprang

"She got away from you," he said. "How do you know?" asked Bianc.

faintly. "Yes, she beat it. I'd like to lay my hands on her now."

"Well, you can," answered the other. "She's at the Cliff House, and I've

take two of your men to be the doc-

sight of him Leontine shrank back

"I'm glad you got her," said Sebas

nurse this afternoon and got out of

the house. It has given me no end of

Leontine's eyes met his, and her lip

eyes fall; he could not meet those of

"Will you let me go free?" Leontine

demanded of O'Mara, "It is true this man is my husband, but he tried to

commit murder today, and often be-

fore. He hates me and wants me out of the way because of what I know."

Sebastian only smiled, and the de-

of the shed; he had never come upon

"She ran away from her

against the further wall in terror.

happened to her."

curled scornfully.

his wife.

Ravengor looked at Bannen benig-

"Say the word and Til dety

want to speak to him."

Then she recoiled in terror, for stages

## SYNOPSIS.

Adventurous Jerry Carson of the search of hidden transmis war promise of Lemmine Wahoff in wife on his return. Her father Schustian Navarre Jerry's ship in the presented has returned by Leontine gazed about her in bewilder-in that drain you spoke of."

Leontine began to grow ularmed. gar had nearly strangfed, spoke, "See here, madame," he said, "Now

## TENTH EPISODE

## The Vanishing Mantle.

At the top of the river bank Leon time stopped and looked about her in uncertainty. She was in an outlying part of the city which was unfamiliar It consisted of fields, with a few scattered houses; in the distance the passage. Suddenly she ran into was a road-house with a shed at the the room. She saw Ravengar shandback. Nearby a polleenan was talking with a friend.

Leontine hurried up to them. The men ceased their conversation and tooked at her in amazement. She was dripping wet, her hair was falling about her shoulders, and her whole aspect was that of a crazy woman.

Help me?" pleaded Lecatine, runting up to the men.

"I want you to save my friend and wipe out this band of criminals." Leon-line pleaded after telling her story. \*Piense hurry, or I don't know what may happen to him."

As she turned uside a moment to her dress the policeman tapped Ravengar. his ferelead significantly, "Wheels!"

"I'll take charge of her," said the them. We'll leave this house together

As Leontine looked up he spoke to ful to you till death.

"Im Detective O'Mara, madam." he said, "It's incly I was here. Sure I know the gang you speak of, and if you'll come to the station house we'll into the matter right away."

Outside the roadhouse he paused. "Excuse me one minute," he said. "I'm working on another case, and I've

got to turn in a report. Leaving Leontine outside he entered and went to the telephone. In a few to her feet and took down the receiver, the hear Schostian's voice. moments he had Sebastian on the

Sebastian, who had not learned of his wife's escape from Binnen's house, was staggered by the message. He

thought hastily. "Hold her right where she is." he an



Ravengar's Life.

wife is mentally unbalanced and escaped from her nurse this afternoon I'll come right over with the nurse and the doctor's assistants."

O'Mars shrugged his shoulders, and from him in horror. went out to Leontine.

Would you mind waiting just a mo ment in here?" he asked, indicating the land office. "I believe we can get the facts from here and save your friend without going to the station house." Leontine, he saw the happiness which she made no effort to conceni.

Ravengar came forward and nodded frontcally to Sebastian. He pushed him back, took Leontine by the hand, and led her toward the door,

"Get out!" Yelled Schustian, pre-cipitating himself upon the other.

He struck Bayengar with his full force under the chin. Ravengur recied ok under the sudden impetus of the low, stumbled, and fell upon the floor entine tried to rush past him, but Selastian caught her and hurled her back into the interior of the shed.

Springing to his feet, Ravengar brew houself upon Schastlan maw, raing to seize the key from him. They Unched and wrestled to and fre. Hav engar got Sebastian to his knees, he held his bend securely in his arm, thile with his free hand he dive the "But what are we to do here?" she key from Sobastian's pocket, then there.

The floor,

"Now, just a minute," said O'Mara spend the door, and took Leaning by the land, Schustlan rose distily; be self, you know, after your adventures. singgered, greating, toward his en-

out into the freedom of the sky.
This was the juncture at which Its shea and her men came on the scene "It's all right, Mrs. Navarre," said Sixing up the situation, and moddened the detective blandly, "Two felephoned by the sight of Ravengar, who had escaped them, they harled themselves upon him, and bors him back into the shed. They followed him, holding ounded outside, and she heard the Leonine between them.

Sebastian, unsteady on his feet, "Get out—the pair of you" repeat- her away," he said,
d Binnes to her men. "Wait!" interposed Ravengar, hold looked triumphantly at Blanca. "Take

But the men, usually prompt to ing up his hand. "Leontine, lock the obey the orders of their dreaded mis-door on the outside when you go out," Sebastian burst into laughter at the

showed no sigus of doing so now. Instead, they looked one at the words, They turned and looked at Then the fellow whom Raven-i nearly stranged, spoke, him curiously. He was making some strange motions with his hand, as if it held an invisible garment. He raised it from his side and moved it toward the end of us. She'll bring down the Leontine, with the manner of one put ting a cape about her.

tled. It's our only chance. If it don . Suddenly a cry burst from Schos-tian's lips. Leontine had disappeared. suit you, I'm through."
"All right, boys," she answered. The door opened. The key was with You have stuck to me for years, and drawn. The door closed again. Jos I guess you're right. Do what you hurled bluself against it just as the lock effeked. The men raised their revolvers, but

"sine minute!" interposed Ravengar. They looked at him in terror, but there was an air of authority about him that maintained silence. He advanced into their midst,

and he went with them, still apparently annised at the situation. The door
ably together," he said, "and we're goclosed. Binner stood shuddering in
ing to stay together." He drew our
became frenched. She lifted littengar?

The proprietor and a number of men pointed.

sme running out.
When the fire broke out the group ens still standing focing Ravengar. His fall and the starting up of the flames were almost simultaneous They forgot him and rushed wildly to

was already abbase.

They rushed to the window. The shutters were of iron, and heavily padlocked.

blaring barrels and, in his fall, buries the. Then Blanca came out dragging. But Leontine, sexious for him, and it noide its companion shouled. The Bavengar's body. She had it down throwing nothing of her own safety, burrel had been shading over a trap upon the ground and wept over it. shoot, with a large from time set into a

The trap door came up, disclosing a thight of steps leading down into a other. By this time the shark was: blaze la levery part.

Biotica cost a furried look foward. Ravengar. He was lying between two Staring barrels. Her heart and her head were in latter counties. On the scorned her; on the other Schustian with his millions.

Head wen. Stringing for shoul-ders, Blanca followed the rest down the steps into the cellur, leaving Ratengar lying unconscious where he had

The little cellar was provided with a buildhead leading outside, Schastian and one of the men rushed up it, heedess of Binnen. As she was about to follow them the man Joe, overcome by the heat, pitched forward unconscious That moment of hesitation changed

Binnea. She stopped. She considered again. Now heart won. She nened and made her way back into the burning shack to save Ravengar

She could hardly enter on account of The whole of the roof was aftre, and sparks were set-The smoke was so thick that at first

Then, steeping, she managed to get her hands upon him and drug him into

She kneeled beside him and burst

Shouts came from the rand-house suddenly uttered a scream, and had wrapped herself in her runs age

released their grip for an instant, once there to be seen. Then she had becoming at the top of her speed. As she did so she shows out the number of the outbrilding and watched Seand managed to envelop herself with bastian intent upon his work

Joe staggered against one of the ments of her limbs would stir the many more

Stiffing a cry, Lewithe knowled down moselessly upon the other side of the stricken man and gamed into be face. Binness, a few inches away, as wholly unaware of her preximits neglit a man's invisible, good engel knowl beside him, helping and prompt

ing hom.
Heavings breathed, he stirred, Tears came into Leontine's eyes, and a deep sense of thankfulness. Mingled with this was gratifude to this woman who had saved him.

Leontine stood up, srepped back, and threw off her mantie. Hance saw her and a red an exclamation of dismay and . termitton

"You have saved his life," cried Leontine, "and I can never thank you enough. You have given me back the only man living who means anything

And she held out her hand to Bi

Branca dashed Leontine's hand fuously nway.

Leoutine had let her mantie fall ompletely from her in her agitation. Suddenly she perceived Sebastian and the rest of the growd in pursuit of her. She had betrayed herself.

She looked wildly about her. A little him. distance away was an out-building. her mantle us she run.

She shock it open and got it about her head and shoulders, and let it fall. first remember what had happened to in her beet. For the second time the him. girl and cluded him. She had simply He was conscious only of the fight vanished. She was nowhere to be seen. in the shed, the outbreak of the blaze.

her husbond's heavy breathing as he He found himself alive, and that was ran past her. He stopped and looked his chief concern. He meant to reabout him in atter hewilderment. Then main alive. He was not anxious to "Where is she?" he shouted, Bianca, kneeling still beside Raven-

gar, had watched the scene. She had seen Leontine disappear, but there were a few small trees in the line of view between herself and the barrels, and she was sure Leontine had sought And in fact Leontine, us soon as Se-

bastian broke off the chase, had made her way toward the largest barrel, in which she could very well concent her-A person looking in would see "She Is in one of those hardheads,"

Burner and pointing toward the out-buildings, "Kill her now, Schastian, Kill her! I'll do it." A sudden light come into Sobastian's

eyes, "I) needn't be taurder," he soul. "It can be an accident, Come with me,

Setestian glided through the trees, making no sound as he went. Beating

"In the third burrel from the right." the whispered.

Schnittan crept under the over hanging roof of the shed until he reached the corner. He was now al-post within reach of the barret. The mantle. hid hung from the top by a single neit. A hammer resid under the sill of the flopped down in the grass and began door. Sebastian raised it and, rushing out, pulled on the fid and began

Binnea meanwhile felt in the other barrels. There was managed of success that's got her," said Sebas tian triumphantly to Bianca.

Then Binnen began to understand his menning. From the outbuilding the ground sloped toward the high eliff which bordered the river, running at first gently, and then with a suddealy increased grade until it became vertical at the extreme edge. There cas a fall of two hundred feet from the cliff's top to the rocky river below.

Sebustian gave the barrel a gentle A few seconds later there came to the watchers' ears the faint sound of the splash in the river.

Ravengar opened his eyes and looked about him. He did not at first know what had happened to him. Then he felt the throb of the wound in his shoulder, and, looking down, saw that he was covered with blood.

He heard distant shouting and save the stream of water from the hose that played upon the burned shack. He was alone, lying in the shelter of the group of trees. On the other side of them Schastian was watching the barrel make its way toward the cliff

He stargered to his feet, his mind filled with foreboding as to Leontine's fate. He remembered nothing since Had she escaped, as he had hoped, in

running toward the hogshead, removed The waiters who were holding her it for a moment, to allow her pro-

They could not break it down. The shack was filled with smoke. In the country where Karengar by the flames to the country where Karengar by the flames to the boundary support into ungertain in the interest where showing up to the roof, which then air, apparently, as if she had never could be a larger than the manufe and make was already which.

"You take it dear Leontine, and go." Leantine, having made herself invis- he said. "I am safe enough, I will this stood perfectly will. She was go over to the resultionse and rest afraid to ran, for four that the moves there; they will not dare attempt to



Bianca and Her Men Escape From the Burning Building.

Bavengar was alive and, for the continued to plead. She stripped herewesent, safe. She must save herself, self of the mantle and held it out to self of the mantle and held it out to

tine man had been left in the cellar, with a number of empty hogsheads. That was the crook named Joe, who standing against the wall. Leontine had fainted from the intense heat. As ushed toward it, trying to draw on Ravengar sat up and opened his eyes on the ground, Joe was opening his in the cellar. He, too, could not at

Lessitine, not during to sur, heard But Joe had not a meditative mind, gan running back toward Bianca. face what seemed to him the inevitable punishment for his crime.

He had no doubt that he was already branded as Ravengar's murder-And he felt, too, that Blanca was becoming too exacting, and her schemes too dangerous.

He crawled out of the cellar by the sulkhend and looked about him. usly was to be seen though he thought he heard Bianca's voice in the distance, Joe thought it was altogether a good oment for making his getaway.

He started to crawl through the long nies, meaning to reach the pine ees and then slip carefully down toand the cliff.

But as he raised his head he was durited and terrified to see Ravengar ying not twenty poses away, supportng loncoeff upon one elbow and starbut bloom him. Joe suddenly took heart again. The

man was not dead, then, He edged away from Ravengar, and

then he saw the figure of Leontine, apparently become incarnate out of nothing. He saw it waver, now visi-ble, now invisible. Then she was stunding beside Ravengar, who had risen to his feet, and offering him the

At once Joe made his decision. He erawling toward them.

Ravengar, meanwhile, resolutely dedined the mantle.

"Take it, my dear," he said again, I am quite safe. And I will meet on here after it has grown dark, and e can make our plans together. an never go back to your husband. Leontine shivered. She had told liavengar of his murderous plot.

"I'll take it, then, since you wish she said submissively, and drew back her arm, with the filmy mantle upon it.

At that moment a hand shot upward from the grass and tore the mantle from her grasp. A moment later Joe, an expert thief, had it in his possession, and was racing for the pines.

Leontine cried out, and Ravengar staggered after him. But Joe was aiready out of sight, hugging the precious muntle in his arms.

heard from the other side of the trees. nnca, who had been joined by her seeond servitor.

"Come " cried Leonline, grasping Ravengar by the arm, "We must get away before they sight us!" "Leontine! The mantle?"

"Our fives, Ravengar," she respond-

And, seizing him by the arm, she helped how into the trees, into the unterbrush. They crouched there while Blanca and Sebastian, unsuspecting their presence, passed by them toward the hotel.

"I suppose that fellow Ravengar won't come back to life," suggested Sebastian.

Bianca realized for the first time that he had gone. But she did not care to let Sebastian know that she had saved him. "I guess we've seen the ast of him," she answered.

Bianca and Sebastian, arm in arm, started down the path through the woods together. (END OF TENTH EPISODE.)



Bianca's Men Capture Leontine.

tipped off the detective who has her his match box, struck a match, and body in her arms again and started there that she's crazy. You're her held it to an oil-soaked piece of tarred to carry him out of the cellar, nurse, and you'll go and get her, and paper which he had picked up. "If She hald him upon the ground a safe you folks try to open that door," he distance from the shack, which was said, "Fil throw this into that grease now entirely in flames, "I did," answered Bianca Joyously, barrel. I guess this oit-soaked shack

won't take long to burst into flame." "It's all right. I'm Mr. Navarre. Open the door," said Schastian to stud fired at Ravengar, who stag-o'Mara. gered and fell. The paper which he held fell into the grease barrel. In-stantly a column of fire shot up. The O'Mara stepped buck, drew the key from his pocket, and opened it. Se-

bastian stood in the entrance. At the shack was ablaze from end to end, sight of him Leontine shrank back Leontine had failed to understand Rayengar's meaning, but she had

That the mantle which he had thrown over her in appearance actu trouble. I was afraid something had ally existed, that it made her lavist ble, were facts undreamed by her Leontine went out and locked the

Sebastian let his door, as she had been instructed. At that moment her attention was attracted to a filmy piece of material apparently hanging from her sleev Wonderingly she plucked at it. She covered her. She reached up, took it off, and shook herself free. She found in her hand, began to run toward the that she was holding in her hands a bulkhend. Sebastian stopped at

tective nodded. He wanted to get out only in places visible. As she examined it the secret

Ravengar strolling nonchalantly to that seemd to curl out of every corner ward them. And, glaucing back at of the building.

Leontine, hidden in her mantle, had stood among a cluster of trees some With a yell, Joe drew his revolver little distance away, looking on in horror which paralyzed her limbs. Ravengar was in the burning shack, and

her pulsied will fulled her. With a last effort she began growing her way toward the shed again.

Then she stopped, hoping wildly, as she saw Sebastian and one of Blanca's men emerge from the bulkhead. The had found a way to escape; and Raengar must be behind them.

Pulling her mantle about her, she ent toward them. Schastian and his companion passed within a few feet of Leontine heard her husband say: "Well, there's one consolation. Ita

vengar won't trouble us again." At the words the girl uttered : scream, and, entirely forgetful of her disguise, pulled the mantle from her head and shoulders and, clutching i

cry and, to his amazement, saw Leon

ting a few paces away, running.

He dashed at her and grasped her, As she examined it the secret dawned at the secret dawned on her. On one side the many he pocketed the bill for twenty dollars which Sebastian slipped to him, and went out, handing him the key.

Sebastian, left alone with Leontine, looked at her and smiled. It was not an amiable smile. She shrank away from him in horror.

Then Sebastian saw a curious look come over his wife's face. She was glancing past him toward the door. As glancing past him toward the door. Looking in the same direction, he saw keyengar strolling nonchalantly toward them. And, glancing back at